

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 136
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

S E C R E T JAKARTA 9422

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, VM, CB, ID
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM AND
CAMBODIA

REF: JAKARTA 9312

1. AFTER SIGNATURE OF OUR PL-480 AGREEMENT ON JULY 13, I ASKED
FOREIGN MINISTER MOCHTAR ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR INDONESIA'S RELATIONS
WITH VIETNAM FOLLOWING A MESSAGE RECENTLY DELIVERED TO PRESIDENT
SUHARTO BY THE LOCAL VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR. MOCHTAR SAID THAT
BASICALLY THE GOI IS SUSPICIOUS OF VIETNAM'S SUDDEN DESIRE FOR
FRIENDSHIP. THEY BELIEVE THIS CHANGE IS TOO QUICK TO BE GENUINE.
THE GOI SUSPECTS, AND HAS SOME EVIDENCE TO CONFIRM, THAT THE SOVIETS
ARE ACTUALLY BEHIND THIS AND ARE PUSHING VIETNAM TO BE MORE FORTH-
COMING TO THE ASEAN STATES. FURTHER, SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER
FIRYUBIN HAS PASSED WORD TO MOCHTAR THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT
JAKARTA. MOCHTAR SAID THE GOI IS CONVINCED THAT THIS IS THE
BEGINNING OF A JOINT VIETNAMESE/SOVIET CAMPAIGN TO STRENGTHEN THEIR
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POSITION IN THE ASEAN AREA. INDONESIA IS SUSPICIOUS BUT, NEVERTHELESS
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SINCE VIETNAM MAY HAVE ITS OWN REASONS FOR WANTING TO AVOID
"TOO CLOSE AN EMBRACE BY THE SOVIET BEAR," THE GOI PLANS TO PLAY
THIS OUT TO SEE HOW FORTHCOMING THE VIETNAMESE WILL BE ON SPECIFIC
ISSUES.

2. ASKED ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE MESSAGE DELIVERED TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO BY THE VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR, MOCHTAR SAID THAT IT WAS NOT VERY EXCITING. HANOI'S AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED A DESIRE FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE ASEAN STATES, BUT DID NOT ENDORSE ASEAN PER SE. HE STRONGLY DEFENDED THE VIETNAMESE POSITION VIS-A-VIS CHINA AND CAMBODIA AND WARNED INDONESIA AGAINST MOVING TOO RAPIDLY IN OPENING DIRECT RELATIONS WITH PEKING. THE VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR POINTED TO THEIR OWN RECENT EXPERIENCES AS EVIDENCE THAT PEKING COULD AND WOULD INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF LOCAL CHINESE MINORITIES. MOCHTAR SAID PRESIDENT SUHARTO EXPLAINED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT INDONESIA HAD HAD EXPERIENCE ON THIS WITH CHINA AND HAD ITS OWN REASONS FOR PROCEEDING SLOWLY IN ESTABLISHING A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP. MOCHTAR COMMENTED TO ME THAT INDONESIA WAS FULLY AWARE FROM ITS OWN CLOSE DEALINGS WITH THE COMMUNISTS DURING THE SUKARNO PERIOD OF THE TACTICS AND ULTIMATE OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMUNIST STATES, INCLUDING VIETNAM. THEY WOULD APPROACH THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH EYES WIDE OPEN.

3. ASKED ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SEABED BOUNDARY BETWEEN INDONESIA AND VIETNAM, MOCHTAR SAID THE VIETNAMESE HAD BEEN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT DURING THE RECENT NEGOTIATIONS IN HANOI. THEY HAD REFUSED EVEN TO CONSIDER DRAWING THE LINE ON THE BASIS OF THE MEDIAN BOUNDARY. MOCHTAR NOTED THAT INDONESIA HAS THIRTEEN SEPARATE AGREEMENTS WITH SIX NEIGHBORING STATES WHICH FOLLOW THIS CONCEPT. IT IS NOT ABOUT TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION IN THE CASE OF VIETNAM. MOCHTAR GAVE THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT

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THE GOI BELIEVES VIETNAM NEEDS INDONESIA MUCH MORE THAN VICE VERSA, AND THAT JAKARTA WILL CONTINUE, THEREFORE, TO TAKE A FIRM POSITION IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS. (IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH DCM, FONDEPT DIRECTOR FOR ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS SUDARSONO SAID VIETNAMESE HAD "INSISTED" ON SECOND MEETING OF NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH MIGHT SIGNAL SOME SOFTENING OF THEIR POSITION. HE ADDED THAT INDONESIANS HAD REJECTED SRV REQUEST THAT GOI RENOUNCE RESOURCE EXPLORATIONS IN AREA PENDING BILATERAL SEA BOUDARY AGREEMENT.)

4. REGARDING ASEAN, MOCHTAR SAID HE WAS CONCERNED THAT BRINGING VIETNAM FULLY INTO ASEAN, IF INDEED THE VIETNAMESE MADE SUCH A REQUEST, WOULD SERIOUSLY DISREUPT THE ORGANIZATION. THE VIETNAMESE HAD DIFFERENT CONCEPTS, A DIFFERENT STYLE, AND DIFFERENT OBJECTIVES. HE HAS ASKED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME ARRANGEMENT UNDER WHICH NATIONS ON THE OUTER TIER OF ASEAN COULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ORGANIZATION, BUT NOT REPEAT NOT BECOME FULL MEMBERS. A NEW GROUP, WHICH WOULD MEET INDEPENDENTLY OF ASEAN, MIGHT BE CALLED THE "ASEAN FORUM" OR SOMETHING SIMILAR. IN ADDITION TO VIETNAM, THIS COULD INCLUDE BURMA AND EVENTUALLY OTHER STATES IN THE AREA.

5. ASKED ABOUT A POSSIBLE VISIT BY IENG SARY FROM CAMBODIA, MOCHTAR SAID THAT THE GOI HAD EXTENDED A FIRM INVITATION FOR HIM TO COME DIRECTLY TO JAKARTA FOLLOWING HIS JULY 14-17 VISIT TO BANGKOK. NO RESPONSE HAS BEEN RECEIVED AS YET. MOCHTAR, HOWEVER, IS KEEPING HIMSELF AVAILABLE FOR A POSSIBLE VISIT BETWEEN JULY 17-19. MOCHTAR WAS UNCERTAIN WHAT MIGHT COME OUT OF SUCH A VISIT BEYOND POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGULAR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. HE THOUGHT THE VISIT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL TO HELP DRAW CAMBODIA OUT OF ITS SHELL AND GIVE THAT GOVERNMENT SOME ADDITIONAL OPTIONS TO ALMOST TOTAL RELIANCE ON CHINA.

MASTERS

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